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Branford Historical Society
Post Office Box 504
Branford, Connecticut 06405

NEWSLETTER

November 1986

WASSAIL PARTY

Our most exciting news is a string trio at the Harrison House Wassail Party. The Sapphire Players of New York and Branford will play Renaissance and Christmas music from 4:00 to 5:00. The Harrison House will welcome all from 3:00 to 5:00 on Sunday, December 7th.

MALLEABLE IRON FITTINGS CO.

Our Historian, Jane Bouley, is preparing a slide talk on the Hammer Family and the MIF. Both of her grandfathers worked at the factory. She would like to hear from anyone regarding the MIF or its Artifacts. Call 488-6531

NEWS FROM THE HIRED GIRL

Simple remedy for Scarlet Fever: Take an onion and cut it in halves, cut out a portion of the centre and into the cavity put a spoonful of saffron; put the pieces together, then wrap in a cloth and bake until the onion is cooked. Squeeze out the juice and give the patient a teaspoonful while rubbing the chest and throat with goose grease or rancid bacon. In a short time the fever will break out in eruptions all over the body. Keep the patient warm and protected from draught and recovery is certain. From the Agricultural Almanac.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL "LEFTOVERS"

One steel colander
 One cuissinart part
 One coffee pot part
 One pewter bowl
 One plastic cover
 Any claimers? 488-8835

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Beers: Commemorative Biographical Record

Rockey's History of New Haven County

Gulbeck's Care of Antiques and Historical Collections

Towner's Isaac Tyler

Isham's Early Connecticut Houses

ARCHIVAL ACQUISITIONS

Much material on the Montowese House has been received from Lydia Noble Booth. Sheldon House Memorabilia has been donated by Louis Lavassa. Elizabeth Bradley Tucker has brought in deeds to oyster grounds off Stony Creek and the discharge papers of Henry Johnson. From Eleanor Hammer Scherer we have received family photos, a large Tole tray and some homespun sheets.

BRANFORD: AS IT BEGAN.....

Land along the river between New Haven and Guilford was occupied by the Wanjunk tribe of Mattabeseck (Middletown), part of the Quinnipiac Tribe. There were only a few families here led by Montowese, son of the Sachem, Sowheog. They came in the summer to "Totoket" as they called it to live off the land and the sea and returned north in the winter. The Indian occupation is evidenced by the finding of numerous projectile points and oyster dumps in Branford through the years.

In 1638 the New Haven Colony in several purchases acquired Totoket from Momauguin, Montowese and Sowheog which included land north to the present day Wallingford. An

BRANFORD: AS IT BEGAN.....(continued)

attempt to settle Totoket was made by Samuel Eaton, brother of Governor Theophilus Eaton of New Haven, which proved unsuccessful.

In 1644 there was dissatisfaction with the ministry at Wethersfield and a group from that town settled in Branford. They were joined by a number of families from New Haven and the difficult task of building homes and cutting trails began.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Five eager females have been working hard all summer on our collections. First we did an inventory - and lo and behold not a single item was missing! Then we started to catalog the many items of clothing not previously catalogued. Here the expert advice of Judi Young of Yesterday's Threads has been a tremendous help.

DRIVING AND PROGRAMS

It has been brought to our attention that many people who would like to attend our lecture series at the Community House cannot do so because they are unable to drive at night. If you would like a ride please call Harriet or Herb White, 488-3658.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

When we welcome you to the December 7th mulled cider and cookie party accompanied by a string trio, you might wish to bring some small antique for our collection. Old pewter, old woodenware, early china or pottery, early candlesticks - all these would be very much appreciated.

GUIDES

The grand finale of the summer guiding program was a delicious lunch served by Peg Hotchkiss at her home. Very appropriately our first tour was of a close neighbor and guiding light - the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

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